

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system, apparatus and corresponding method for providing a frequency reference to a user module, such as a global positioning system (GPS) receiver module. The method includes the steps of: a) having a cellular module respond to a cellular communication signal by providing a trigger pulse derived from the data component of the cellular communication signal; and b) directing the trigger pulse along a special hardware path leading from the cellular module to a user module. The special hardware path conducts the trigger pulse in such a way that the trigger pulse is provided to the user module substantially free of any significant random delays. The user module typically includes a frequency generation module that provides a stable frequency reference based on the trigger pulse. In some applications, the method also includes the step of identifying each new frame or time slot or data bit in the cellular communication signal, and the trigger pulse is provided each time a new frame or time slot or data bit, respectively, is identified.